Message Text

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UNCLAS TAIPEI 8264

HONG KONG FOR REGIONAL TREASURY REP

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, TW

SUBJECT: REDUCTION OF BANK INTEREST RATES

REF: TAIPEI 7066

1. IN A FURTHER EFFORT TO RELIEVE THE TIGHT MONEY SITUATION WHICH HAS HAMPERED ROC INDUSTRY IN RECENT MONTHS, THE CENTRAL BANK OF CHINA ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING REDUCTIONS IN INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 14:

BEFORE AFTER

CATEGORY ADJUST. ADJUST. CHANGE

- I. ANNUAL RATES OF CBC
- 1. REDISCOUNTS 10.00 9.50 -0.5
- 2. ACCOMMODATIONS AGAINST SECURED LOANS 11.25 10.75 "
- 3. TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATIONS 13.25 12.75 "
- 4. ACCOMMODATIONS AGAINST GOV'T BONDS 11.25 10.75 "
 NO CHANGES FOR "ACCOMMODATIONS IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES"
 AND "ACCOMMOCATIONS FOR EXPORT FINANCING (IN FOREIGN CURRENCIS)".
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II. ANNUAL RATES ON DEPOSITS IN COMMERCIAL BANKS

1. DEMAND DEPOSITS 1.25 1.00 -0.25

2. TIME DEPOSITS

A. ONE MONTH 7.00 6.50 -0.50
B. THREE MONTHS 7.75 7.25 "
C. SIX MONTHS 8.50 8.00 "
D. NINE MONTHS 9.25 8.75 "
E. ONE YEAR OR MORE 11.25 10.75 "

3. SAVINGS DEPOSITS

A. PASSBOOK SAVINGS 6.50 6.00 "
B. ONE YEAR 11.25 10.75 "
C. TWO YEARS 11.25 10.75 "
D. THREE YEARS 11.25 10.75 "

III. ANNUAL RATES ON LOANS FROM COMMERCIAL BANKS

1. UNSECURED LOANS (MAX.) 13.25 12.75 "

(MIN.) 13.00 12.50 "

2. SECURED LOANS (MAX.) 12.50 12.50 "

(MIN.) 12.25 11.75 "

3. DISCOUNTS (MAX.) 11.25 10.75 "

(MIN.) 11.00 10.50 "

4. LOANS FOR EXPORTS 7.00 7.00 -

2. COMMENT: DESPITE THE CLAIM BY THE CENTRAL BANK THAT THE INTEREST RATE REDUCTIONS REPORTED REFTEL HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN HELPING ROC INDUSTRY SOLVE ITS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, A FURTHER DECREASE HAS BEEN DEEMED NECESSARY TO SOLVE THE CONTINUING PROBLEMS. BOTH INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN THE HIGH INTEREST RATES SO MUCH AS THE BANKS UNWILLINGNESS TO MAKE LOANS IN THE WAKE OF RECENT SCANDALS THAT HAS MADE IT DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN LOANS. THUS IT REMAINS UNCLASSIFIED

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TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE LATEST REDUCTIONS WILL HAVE THE DESIRED EFFECT OF LOOSENING MONEY. THE GROC'S FEARS OF CREATING INFLATIONARY PRESSURES HAVE APPARENTLY EASED AS THE EARLIER REDUCTIONS, ALBEIT SMALL, DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE A NOTICEABLE INFLATIONARY IMPACT. UNGER

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